

States. At points in northern California it was among the driest Decembers of record, and that State as a whole was unusually dry.

In Florida the precipitation was usually deficient to a considerable extent, particularly in the southern portions where drought, more or less severe, had prevailed since the second decade of October. At Miami, the total precipitation from October 21 to December 31 amounted to only 9 per cent of the normal for the period. This lack of precipitation, however, was beneficial rather than harmful in portions of the Everglades, permitting the low ground to dry out sufficiently for truckers to begin operations.

SNOWFALL.

The snowfall was almost as great as in any previous December over New Mexico, principally owing to the vigorous snowstorm which reached most of that State and considerable parts of adjoining States about the 10th. This snow blocked railway and highway traffic on most of the important roads. A few of the higher portions of the Northwest and part of the upper Mississippi Valley had somewhat more snowfall than the December average.

On the whole, the country had considerably less snow than usually comes at this season, and this was notably true of California and Nevada and of the States just north of the Ohio River. The Lake region and the

Northeast, which are the snowiest districts of the eastern half, had less than normal, as did the northern Plains, and in these areas, as well as in the upper Mississippi Valley, most of the snow that occurred was during the final week. In the northwestern districts also the greater part of the snow came between Christmas and New Year's Day. As a result of these falls late in the month, the depth on ground when the month ended was not far from the average December condition in most portions of the country, but there was a serious shortage in the California mountains and most of the ground was bare from Illinois eastward to New Jersey and southeastern New York.

Chart VII indicates the distribution of the month's snowfall, and the inset chart shows the depths that remained on the 31st.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

Over most portions of California and in the adjacent parts of Nevada the general dryness of the month is indicated by the average relative humidity, which ranged from 5 to nearly 20 per cent less than normal. In Arizona, however, and thence eastward over the Gulf and South Atlantic States the relative humidity was everywhere above normal, and decidedly so in the more western portions. In other districts the relative humidity was not materially at variance with normal conditions.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, DECEMBER, 1923.

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the annual report of the Chief of Bureau.]

Place.	Date.	Time.	Width of path.	Loss of life.	Value of property destroyed.	Character of storm.	Remarks.	Authority.
Puget Sound, Wash. (near Friday Harbor). Oregon coast.....	5	P. m.....	Yards.....			Gale.....	Steamer foundered and crew of 15 believed lost.	Star (Seattle, Wash.).
Northern Idaho and north-eastern Washington. Binghamton, N. Y.....	5-6					Wind and rain....	Considerable property damage. Communication and traffic interrupted.	Telegram (Portland, Oreg.).
	5-6					Wind, rain, and snow.	Telephone poles and trees blown down; traffic tied up and many towns isolated.	Chronicle (Spokane, Wash.).
	6					Wind.....	Limits blown from trees, electric light poles, windows, and globes broken; other property damage.	Press (Binghamton, N. Y.).
New Mexico (greater portion of).	10-11			14	\$200,000	Heavy snow storm followed by severe cold.	Some livestock lost and traffic tied up. A number of persons were frozen to death.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Coos Bay, Oreg.....	16			9		Wind.....	Steamer wrecked.....	Roseburg News Review (Oregon).
Washington and Oregon coasts.	25					High winds.....	Considerable damage to roofs, plate-glass windows, telephones, wires and poles. Shipping delayed.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin (San Francisco, Calif.).

STORM AND WEATHER WARNINGS.

WASHINGTON FORECAST DISTRICT.

Storm warnings were issued in connection with five storms for the Middle Atlantic and North Atlantic coast and all were fully verified, except the warnings issued on the night of the 30th. The first warnings of the month were displayed the night of the 4th, at which time a disturbance of considerable intensity was central over Kentucky and moving northeastward. This storm moved very slowly during the ensuing 36 hours, but it increased in both area and intensity. There were gales along the entire seaboard from Cape Hatteras northward, and the highest velocity reported was 60 miles an hour from the southeast at Atlantic City, N. J.

The next storm of importance to cross the country was central over northern Ontario on the morning of the 13th,

and a trough of low pressure extended thence southward to the Gulf coast. Southwest storm warnings were ordered displayed at all stations from Cape Hatteras northward and gales were general during the afternoon and night of the 13th. A maximum wind of 60 miles an hour from the south occurred at Atlantic City, N. J., and the same velocity from the north at Cape Henry, Va.

The next warnings were issued for the coast from Delaware Breakwater northward in connection with a disturbance that moved rapidly eastward from Ontario to Nova Scotia during the 16th-17th. The highest wind velocity reported was 56 miles an hour from the northwest at Block Island, R. I.

A disturbance that was central over Iowa on the morning of the 27th moved rapidly east-northeastward to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland during the next two days. It increased greatly in intensity and was attended by gales almost generally along the coast from Wil-